

January 10, 1969

Dean S. Madras,
Faculty of Science,
Sir George Williams University.

Dear Dean Madras:

I am one of the persons named by the Science Faculty Council on December 6 to serve with a committee which was formed to review charges made against Professor P. Anderson, if such charges should materialise in an acceptable written form.

My name was suggested to the Council after the events of December 5 when Professors Buckner, Davis and myself asked the students who were confronting Professor Anderson with charges of racism to accept a procedure for reviewing their complaints, which had been set out by the Faculty Association and approved in principle by University Administration, although not yet approved by University Council. In the agreement reached, my name was suggested by students involved, and agreed to by Professor Anderson, to serve with a hearing committee if it should be formed, and I imagine this was the reason that my name was included among those forwarded for review by the Science Faculty Council.

If the task should materialise it would be an unpleasant one but I feel I could work with the committee with an open mind and without prejudice for or against either party involved. I accepted membership in that belief. The structure of the Sir George Williams Association of University Teachers, of which I am president, is such that my presence would not prejudice Professor Anderson's possibility of using the Association for further defence if necessary.

However, it has become increasingly obvious that the case has implications going well beyond the examination of a charge against an individual. The matter may set a series of Canadian precedents and there are a number of associated problems within this University. It has become clear to me that I can best serve the aims of those who wish to resolve the matter by functioning in my role as president of S.G.W.A.U.T., and beginning immediately a

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review and definition of such matters as the responsibilities of faculty, forms of prejudice and the role of administration in such affairs utilising the resources available through the Canadian Association of University Teachers, etc. I cannot do this while serving with a hearing committee and I must therefore resign from that committee. My principle aim is to further secure the base of operation for that committee.

It is my earnest request that a replacement, if a replacement is to be found, should be acceptable to the students and to Professor Anderson in the spirit of the original agreement on December 5. I would also like the students and Professor Anderson to know of this letter and my reasons for withdrawing.

Yours sincerely,

M.M.

Michael Marsden
Assistant Professor
Department of Geography

MM:SG

c.c. Acting Principal D.B. Clarke.
Professor A. Adamson.